



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
DMC Subcommittee
Minutes of Electronic Meeting**

Origination Site: Lucas State Office Building
321 East 12th Street, Room 208
Des Moines, IA 50319

November 9, 2016

Present: Darryle Bohanna; Kim Cheeks; LaTasha DeLoach; Karyn Finn; Bob Greenlee; Kevin McKeever; Sanjita Pradhan; Sonia Reyes-Snyder; Chris Wyatt; Pat Weir

Others: Vivian Hayashi, Univ. of Iowa; Chad Jensen, 5th District Juvenile Court Services

Staff: Steve Michael; Dave Kuker; Julie Rinker

- **Welcome/Introductions/Agenda**

In the absence of Wayne Ford, Dave Kuker called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

- **Approval of August 17, 2016 Meeting Summary**

Bob Greenlee moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting, seconded by Kevin McKeever. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Follow-Up - June 2016 Community Planning Event**

- **Attendee Survey**

Kuker reported that State Court Administration surveyed JCS offices in each of the nine communities in attendance at the June 15th "Equal Justice for Juveniles" event in Altoona. All but one survey has been returned. From the survey responses, it is clear that JCS has focused on the front end of the system through prevention and diversion activities. The automated detention screening tool is still a priority. Local jurisdictions are requesting assistance regarding outcomes and asking for feedback. Chief Juvenile Court Officers are meeting collectively to determine needs; assistance can be provided by CJJP and this subcommittee. CJJP has offered to provide data on a quarterly basis.

- **CASP Report Update to Governor, Attorney General, Chief Justice, and Key State Agency Heads**

State Court Administration will update the CASP report. CJJP will provide data for the nine communities and statewide. Community summaries will be included in the update.

- **Legislative Priorities**

Kuker discussed previous conversations surrounding backpack searches of juveniles and racial profiling. The NAACP will re-introduce a racial profiling bill during the upcoming legislative session. He suggested scheduling a webinar in December to learn more about the bill and whether this subcommittee wishes to support it.

Steve Michael reported that the Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council voted to recommend that the legislature address racial profiling and require law enforcement to report demographic information on police stops. Kim Cheeks noted that juvenile provisions were not included in the proposed bill. She referenced a study by Saint Ambrose University regarding police stops in Iowa City and Davenport.

There was consensus to provide a webinar on racial profiling and the Saint Ambrose study.

- **DMC Reduction Plan 2015/16**
 - **State-Level DMC Summit**

Kuker reported on the NAACP's "Iowa Summit on Justice and Disparities" held November 4th. Approximately 150-200 were in attendance. Chief Justice Mark Cady presented; a former police officer/NAACP member provided the keynote address and discussed the intersection of police officer shootings in Des Moines and shootings by police in Ferguson and Baltimore; Kuker conducted a workshop on DMC.

- **Local DMC Collaboration and Plan Development Effort**
- **Discussions With State Leaders** – will survey
- **Ongoing Provision of Data -**
- **Implementation of Electronic Version of DST**

The above items were discussed during other agenda topics.

- **Local DMC Updates**
 - **Polk County DMC Committee**

Kuker reviewed Polk County DMC-related efforts during the past year—the local DMC Committee has reconvened; Dr. Darryle Bohanna has been hired as the Restorative Justice/Equity Coordinator; and a series of "Courageous Conversations" have been held with minority communities. The purpose was to gather information, opinions, beliefs, and attitudes regarding Polk County Juvenile Court Services and detention. Kuker introduced Chad Jensen, Chief Juvenile Court Officer for the 5th Judicial District, who presented details regarding the project.

Jensen reported that the project was led by external consultants, Drs. Michele Devlin and Mary Grey. Five focus sessions were held throughout Polk County in neighborhoods with the most juvenile court referrals. The purpose was to improve services and guide decision-making in a culturally competent format. Attendees were from diverse age, gender, faith, and occupational backgrounds. Primary topics were what is/not going well or getting worse and strategies to address challenges.

To allow a free flow of information, JCS staff did not participate in the community conversations. Feedback was not received until the project was completed. Community stakeholders/leaders who understood issues played an important role in recruiting participants. Facilitators were trained in keeping the conversation productive and on track. Participants included those with first-hand experiences with JCS, but did not include current court cases.

Recommendations:

- Develop ways to make juvenile justice more humanizing, educational, restorative, and rehabilitating rather than punishment-based.
- Provide onsite services, especially trauma-informed.
- Develop community liaisons, navigators, and other human resources to guide youth and families through the process.
- Develop partnerships to fund local minority non-profits, churches, and associations to provide services to keep kids out of the system and expand community involvement.
- Provide mediation and diversion instead of detention; develop parent-partner programs; provide family team meetings, counseling, peer mentors and resources.
- Provide parenting classes with a focus on family dynamics for those who have fathers or mothers in prison.
- Partner with literacy and reading programs before, during, and after detention to help eliminate the link between poor education and incarceration, emphasize African-American role models.
- Utilize extended family members for releasing youth after detention.
- Improve cultural competency and tolerance training for staff, educators, law enforcement, judges, and others.

JCS has implemented some of the strategies. Additional insight will be gained from town hall meetings in December. Although the information strictly pertains to Polk County, the process could be replicated and shared with other judicial districts.

Discussion included suggestions related to the presentation—slides should be reworded to alleviate perceived bias; notetakers were African-American; this subcommittee should review findings as a group and help other communities implement similar changes.

In other efforts, Jensen reported that JCS conducts monthly reviews of detention data, admissions, offenses, and DST scores. In July, 31 youth were detained on a warrant. Of those, 26 scored for release or a detention alternative. Discussions have centered on ways to address these situations. Proposals include a two-tiered system, giving JCS discretion to release youth rather than comply with the warrant.

Other work surrounds youth involved in both the welfare and delinquency systems. Thirty to forty percent have current or past system involvement with child welfare. JCS is reviewing ways to better serve these youth. Polk County has been awarded a Robert F. Kennedy grant to implement strategies to improve outcomes for dual status youth.

- **Johnson County** – LaTasha Massey reported that concerns to reduce police contact in schools have resurfaced. There are police chief vacancies in Iowa City and Coralville—the Georgetown effort has stalled somewhat. Massey will attend the Coalition for Juvenile Justice DMC conference in December to learn more strategies.

- **Linn/Johnson County** – no report
- **Waterloo** – no report.
- **Office on Asian & Pacific Islanders**—Sanjita Pradhan reported that Bhutanese and Burmese refugee youth are getting more involved with the system. Work is being done to provide family support and parenting resources for these communities. Pradhan noted that the previous conversations were also relevant to Asian and Pacific Islanders and how outcomes impact these communities.
- **Latino Affairs**—Sonia Reyes-Snyder agreed that other populations are being affected by these same issues. She suggested bringing groups together to provide a stronger voice.
- **Iowa Girls' Justice Initiative**—Kuker reported that a report and recommendations will be released in the next few weeks. The project relates to services for delinquent females and a continuum of services since the closure of the Iowa Juvenile Home. More information will be shared when the report is completed.
- **Future Meetings – Ford**
 - The February 15, 2017, electronic meeting will be rescheduled to avoid conflicting with the NAACP “day on the hill” at the state Capitol.
- **Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning
Iowa Department of Human Rights